



City Manager's Report

CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA

November 13, 2020

City Council Kicks Off New Improvement Project to Modernize Edison Community Center



On Monday, November 9, 2020, the Huntington Beach City Council launched a capital improvement project to rehabilitate Edison Community Center, located at 21377 Magnolia Street. Project plans call for significant interior improvements including a newly remodeled lobby entrance, multi-purpose rooms, kitchen, restrooms, and service windows, all of which will modernize the

Rendering of the future Edison Community Center

facility to meet the growing needs of our community.

"This was a rewarding moment for the City Council," says Mayor Lyn Semeta. "Many of us spent countless hours at Edison Community Center, attending or volunteering at events or classes with our families. We've made great memories here, and I am so pleased that, despite the budget challenges many cities are facing, we were able to keep our promise to improve our facilities and provide quality amenities that will benefit many generations to come."

The construction kick off, which was attended by Mayor Lyn Semeta, Mayor Pro Tem Kim Carr, and Council Members Barbara Delgleize and Jill Hardy, marks the first improvement project at Edison Community Center, since its dedication in 1973. The project is designed to increase energy efficiencies, as well as enhance building accessibility and the flow of visitors. These factors will not only improve a visitor's experience at the Center, but also accommodate a larger number of programs and services offered by the Community Services Department.

(Continued on page 2)

November 13, 2020

Community Services Department

Edison Community Center Project Kickoff

The Edison Community Center rehabilitation project follows the completion and November 7 rededication of similar improvements at Murdy Community Center. Both projects represent the City's commitment to rehabilitate its facilities to meet the growing needs of our community. The City has budgeted approximately \$1 million to construct the improvements, and anticipates a March 2021 completion date.

The Edison Community Center sits on a 40-acre lot in the Southeast Area of Huntington Beach and provides a variety of community services and amenities for our community. These improvements will allow the Huntington Beach Community Services Department to effectively provide over 200 quality recreation classes and activities for adults and children, including dance, sports, arts and other programming.



(From left to right: Mayor Pro Tem Kim Carr, Mayor Lyn Semeta, and Council Members Barbara Delgleize and Jill Hardy)

November 13, 2020

Community Services Department

Murdy Community Center Rededication



The City just completed improvements to the Murdy Community Center, which underwent its first major interior refurbishment since it was built in 1969.

Improvements include energy efficient lighting and window replacements; new restrooms, kitchen, and internal circulation improvements to provide better access for residents; updated interior finishes; and a new building security system. In all, the building modernization creates cost savings and provides a space that supports the programs offered by our Community Services Department.

2020 Veterans Day



This year, the City and the American Legion Post 133 held a small Veterans Day Ceremony at City Hall to honor our veteran military members (and their families) who made great sacrifices to protect our nation. Thank you to all of our veterans for preserving our freedoms and setting a great example for all Americans to follow.

November 13, 2020

Public Information Office

City Appoints Julian Harvey as Interim Chief of Police



On Thursday, November 5, Julian Harvey was named as Huntington Beach's Interim Chief of Police by a 5-2 vote of the Huntington Beach City Council. A veteran law enforcement executive with 28-years of policing experience, Mr. Harvey previously served as Deputy Chief of Police for the City of Anaheim, where he oversaw 400 sworn officers who provided public safety protection for a community of 360,000 residents. During the course of his career, Mr. Harvey served in various law enforcement roles, including a stint as Anaheim's Interim Chief of Police from October 2017 to August 2018, before retiring in November 2019.

During his tenure in Anaheim, Mr. Harvey served in nearly every law enforcement rank, accruing experiences that will serve him well in Huntington Beach. Of note, he was instrumental in the

development of a holistic, multi-disciplinary approach to reduce the impacts and root causes of homelessness and served as the police department representative in the opening of several homeless shelters. His successful human trafficking grant resulted in a victim-centered approach and the establishment of the O.C. Human Trafficking Task Force. Mr. Harvey also has extensive experience managing public safety during significant special events occurring in Anaheim.

"Huntington Beach is a dynamic community with an iconic history, and its Police Department is second to none," said Mr. Harvey. "I am humbled and beyond excited to have this opportunity to serve the community and the department during this phase of the City's history."

The City engaged a search process two weeks ago, following the announcement that Acting Chief of Police Kelly Rodriguez would be retiring on November 13, 2020. That recruitment process resulted in the identification of several candidates for City Council consideration, and ultimately led to the appointment of Mr. Harvey as the Interim Chief of Police earlier this evening.

"Through the assessment process, Julian demonstrated that he is a dynamic law enforcement professional who places an outsized emphasis on people," said City Manager Oliver Chi. "He shares our strong commitment to public safety in Huntington Beach, and we are confident that Julian will help our Police Department stabilize as we work through this transitional period."

Mr. Harvey will serve as the Interim Chief of Police while the City coordinates a formal recruitment process to identify Huntington Beach's next permanent Chief of Police, a process which is expected to take 4 – 6 months.

November 13, 2020

Public Information Office

Navigation Center Ribbon Cutting Event

After years of effort, the Mayor and City Council hosted a ribbon cutting event today to celebrate the completion of construction of the City's Navigation Center. The facility will provide up to 174 shelter beds for adults, and will also facilitate additional case management and support services.

"During the past five years, addressing homeless related issues has been a top priority at the City," said Mayor Lyn Semeta. "Establishing a Navigation Center here in Huntington Beach provides us with a critical tool to help our most vulnerable adults, while facilitating an improved quality of life for everyone in Surf City."



City Council cuts the red ribbon to celebrate the new Navigation Center

The Navigation Center, located at 17642 Beach Boulevard, will provide homeless adults in Huntington Beach with temporary sheltering and homeless support services. The City has contracted with Mercy House (www.mercyhouse.net) to operate the facility.

With construction of the facility now complete, Mercy House and City

contractors will spend the next few weeks outfitting and putting the finishing touches on the Navigation Center. The facility will begin serving homeless clients by November 30.

Those staying at the temporary shelter will have access to comprehensive support services, including vocational training, mental health treatment, and transportation to necessary appointments. To enhance the safety of the surrounding neighborhood and prevent loitering off-site, walk-ins will not be accepted, and all clients must be referred in
(continued to page 17)

November 13, 2020

Public Information Office

On November 2, Mayor Lyn Semeta presented the Making a Difference Award to John Etheridge (pictured with his family). John has proven himself to be a dedicated community member, volunteer, leader, and business owner in HB!

John has been giving back to our community for many years now, previously serving as President of the Kiwanis Club and supporting major projects to bring our community together through acts of service. John has also kept our surfing culture alive and well as the current head of the City's Surfing Walk of Fame organization. Congratulations, John!



On November 2, Mayor Lyn Semeta invited Drs. Tiffany Nielsen and Taryn Tanner of UCI's School of Nursing to receive a proclamation recognizing Nurse Practitioner's Week (November 8-14) and honoring nurse practitioners throughout the region for their dedication and vigilant work, especially during COVID-19. Thank you to all nurse practitioners for their care and dedication!



November 13, 2020

Community Services Department



Winter 2020-2021 SANDS Recreation and Programs Guide

The winter issue of the *SANDS* is here! The Community & Library Services Department is happy to continue to offer recreational programming during this uncertain time. To ensure classes can be offered based on state and county guidance, the registration window for winter is as follows:

- Registration for all **in-person** activities opens 14 days before the class begins at 9am.
- Registration for all **online** activities opens Tuesday, November 17 at 9am.
- Registration for all **events** opens 60 days before the date of the event.

The winter *SANDS* was mailed to all Huntington Beach residents the week of November 2 and is available on huntingtonbeachca.gov/sands. Registration will be accepted online at hbsands.org or by mail-in/drop-box to City Hall. Winter classes begin January 4, 2021. For more questions, please call the Community & Library Services Department at 714-536-5486.

November 13, 2020

Community Services Department

Shipley Nature Center to Reopen Saturday, November 14 on a Limited Scale Each Saturday from 9 am until 1 pm



The Friends of Shipley Nature Center volunteers will welcome visitors to enjoy the trails each Saturday from 9 am until 1 pm. Entry to the nature center is free. Please consider a donation to support our work - suggested donation is \$3 per person.

In an effort to keep everyone safe, there are some new procedures we must follow. The interpretative building and all programs remain temporarily closed. The restrooms will be open with enhanced cleaning and sanitizing protocols.

We kindly ask, and strongly recommend, that you wear a face mask or covering. Single-use masks are available, free

of charge. Remember to stay six feet apart from others for physical distancing. Hand sanitizer is available for your use.

We must limit how many people can be inside the nature center at any given time. Parking is located at 17851 Goldenwest St, Huntington Beach.

California Native Plants

Please consider purchasing a plant for your garden and learn the value of natives while supporting Shipley Nature Center. Vermiculture and compost will also be available for purchase. We will use contactless payments via card or app. Please have exact change.



The Friends of Shipley Nature Center are grateful for the highly-skilled habitat volunteers for their dedication and hard work to maintain the health and beauty of the gardens. The groundskeepers have been doing a great job in clearing the trails for our visitors and cutting back overgrown brush and tree limbs. Thanks to the City of Huntington Beach for their continued support, and for the community of members and donors.

November 13, 2020

Community Services Department

Senior Center in a Box Recipe Kit Available November 19



The holiday cooking season is upon us. It's a special time of year where you make all your special treats and cherished family recipes.

To have a little fun with this unique and different holiday season, the *Senior Center In A Box* Program Kit #10 will be a "Recipe and Cooking" Kit. Many people out of necessity have gone back to cooking and baking while under quarantine this year. This fun and exciting kit may just be the thing to complete your culinary creations this Thanksgiving. Each kit will include a one of a kind senior center collectors edition cooking apron, supplies to make a recipe box, *a book of recipes collected from your fellow Senior Center in Central Park participants and the Senior Services staff, and a special holiday treat.*

The kits will be available on **Thursday, November 19 from 10am-12pm** in front of the senior center in a no-contact

drive-thru fashion. If you are unable to drive-thru and pick up your kit at the listed time, please contact the front desk and make arrangements to pick up a kit at an alternative date and time.

A suggested donation of \$5 per kit is appreciated to help support the program and continue offering fun and interactive activities at home. Staff will be outside handing out the kits, waving and happy to see all of you.

Winter Wishes

The Senior Center in Central Park Care Management Team is collecting specific gifts for select older adult clients during the holidays. Donations of the following, new, unwrapped items will be accepted December 2 & December 4 between 10am and 12pm or by calling 714-374-1572 to set up a time to drop off your items:

- ◆ Gift cards to 99 Cents Store
- ◆ Small portable heaters
- ◆ Electric blankets/ throws
- ◆ Hand held vacuums
- ◆ Light weight vacuums
- ◆ Pet supplies

Thank you and Happy Holidays!

November 13, 2020

Community Services Department



Senior Center in a Box Activity Kit #11 Coming December 3!

What better way to kick off the festive holiday season than with delicious and fun cookie making. It brings back all those treasured memories of years past of making tasty holiday creations to share with family, friends, and neighbors alike.

The 11th installment of the *Senior Center in a Box* recreation program will be a kit complete with all the fixings that you need to make some tasty holiday cookies to enjoy and share. Each kit will include a pack of sugar cookie mix, frosting, decorative toppings, a cookie cutter in a holiday shape as well as a collection of holiday cookie recipes to enjoy. Start your winter holiday season off in the most tasty of ways and enjoy some cookie making.

The kits will be available on Thursday, December 3 from 10am-12pm in front of the senior center in a no-contact, drive-thru fashion. If you are unable to drive-thru at that time listed please contact the front desk and make arrangements to pick up a kit at an alternative date and time.

A suggested donation of \$5 per kit is appreciated to help support the program and continue with fun and interactive activities at home. Have a safe and happy holiday season this year.

November 13, 2020

Police Department



Every year, hundreds of officers from local, county, state, federal, and military agencies participate in the Law Enforcement Torch Run, which is the largest public awareness event and grass-roots fundraiser for Special Olympics of Southern California. Our police department, along with many other Orange County Law Enforcement agencies, also participates in this event. The goal is to raise awareness and funds for athletes with disabilities so they too can have access to sports training and competition. This year our department will run along the beach on Friday, November 13. Unfortunately, this year the “Flame of Hope” will not be passed on from agency to agency at the end of our run. However, through our participation, we hope that we can continue raising awareness, and with your support, continue to raise funds to help Special Olympic Orange County programs.



November 13, 2020

Fire Department

SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES



Last week, Huntington Beach Firefighters responded to the Surf City Beach Cottages near Huntington Street and Atlanta Avenue for a report of a structure fire. The first arriving crew reported smoke coming from the residence, active fire, and called for a working structure fire. Crews made an aggressive attack, was able to extinguish the fire, and stopped any extension to neighboring units.

Luckily, the person who lived at the residence had working smoking alarms. Fire took over the home and the resident was alerted by their working smoke alarm and was able to safely exit. While this home was heavily damaged by fire, this resident is here today because of a working smoke alarm.

In an effort for community risk reduction and with the recent time change, we want to make sure that all of our resident are safe if there is ever a fire at home and it starts with smoke alarms! When there is fire, smoke spreads quickly throughout a structure, and can incapacitate someone from escaping their home safely.

(Continued on page 14)

Fire Department

(Smoke Alarms Save Lives, cont'd from page 13)

Please make sure that you are following these safety tips in regard to smoke alarms:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom. They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
- Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old
- Smoke alarms should be installed inside every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level.
- Smoke alarms should be connected so when one sounds, they all sound. Most homes do not have this level of protection.
- Lastly, with the recent time change – if your smoke alarm is battery powered, make sure that you change it when the time changes.



November 13, 2020

Community Development Department

Building Division Update

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Community Development Department has continued to serve the residents and businesses of the City of Huntington Beach. Through the innovative use of technology to implement digital building inspections, video meetings, and online permit and plan check submittal, the Building Division has issued **3,323 permits**, completed **2,288 plan checks** and conducted **16,733 inspections** from the beginning of the pandemic in mid-March through October 31. In addition, the Community Development Department issued **314 certificates of occupancy** to businesses.

Although City Hall is not physically open for walk-in service, customers are able to access the Community Development Department 24/7 through our digital platforms. For information on the Department's digital and online services and instructions on how to submit for permits or request an inspection visit:

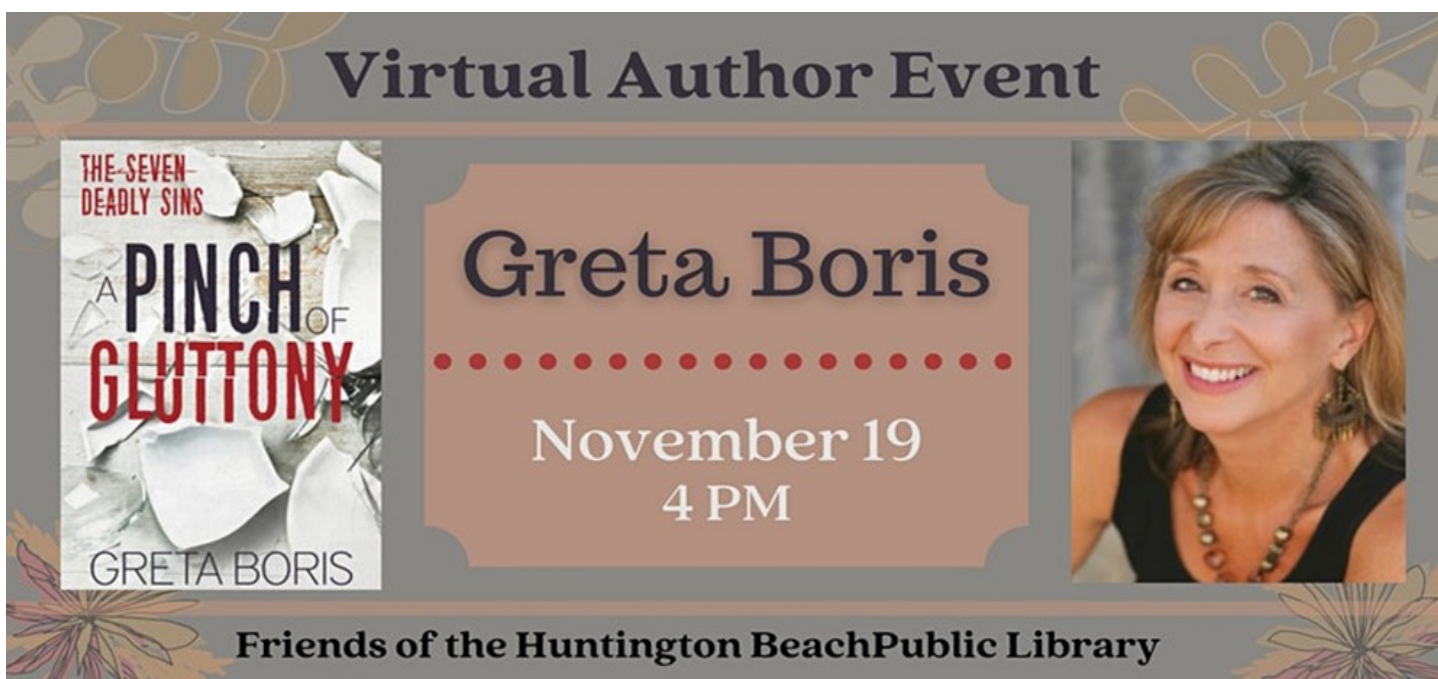
https://huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/departments/building_safety/.

Notable projects that have started or completed construction during the COVID-19 pandemic include:



November 13, 2020

Library Services Department



Virtual Author Event

Greta Boris

.....

November 19
4 PM

Friends of the Huntington Beach Public Library

The banner features a book cover for 'A Pinch of Gluttony' by Greta Boris on the left, a portrait of Greta Boris on the right, and a central text box with the author's name and event date. The background has a decorative floral pattern.

Join the Friends of the Huntington Beach Public Library on Thursday, November 19 at 4 pm for a **live Zoom talk with Greta Boris**, acclaimed author of the Seven Deadly Sins series – where ordinary women and unexpected evil meet in taut psychological thrillers that expose the dark side of sunny Orange County, California. Her latest novel of the standalone series, [A Pinch of Gluttony](#), features culinary artist Honey Wells, and is a wonderful addition, full of suspense and action. Registration for this free event begins October 20 at [Friends of the Library website's Programs & Special Events tab](#).



The HBPL Adult Literacy Department is offering **Online Citizenship Classes for those wanting to become a U.S. citizen**. This online course will help learners prepare for the Naturalization Exam, by providing information on each of the questions included. These two-hour virtual classes offered online via Zoom will begin on **Wednesday, December 2 at 10 am**, and meet once a week for 13 weeks. [Registration is required](#). *Register online to receive a link to the Zoom meeting prior to the event.*

November 13, 2020

Library Services Department

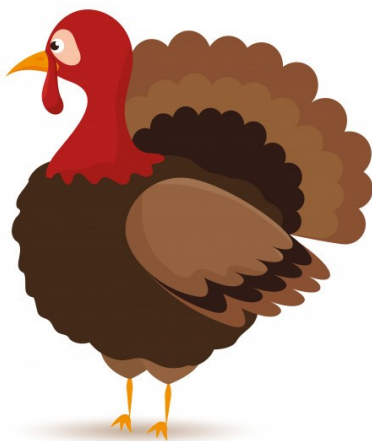


The next installment of the HBPL Makerspace Holiday Gift-making Program will take place on Tuesday, November 20, 10 am. This virtual sewing class will teach participants how to make a gift bag using a sewing machine. All needed materials are included. Attendance leads towards a Certification in Sewing, which allows users self-guided access to machine equipment when the Makerspace officially reopens. Registration is required for this online course, which meets via Zoom.



BOOKS & COOKS

The final installment of the Huntington Beach Central Library's Books and Cooks Fall Virtual Book Club is The One Hundred Foot Journey, by Richard C. Morais -- and will meet online via Zoom on Tuesday, November 17 at 6 pm. This food-themed tale will take readers from India to France on a delectable journey full of food, passion and culture. Register online to receive a link to the Zoom meeting the day before the event. Click here to register <https://hbpl.libcal.com/event/7059482>.



In observance of Thanksgiving, the Huntington Beach Public Library system will **close on Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27, 2020.** The Central Library will reopen on Saturday, November 28 at 9 am.

Navigation Center Ribbon Cutting Event (cont'd from p. 5)

to the Navigation Center through the City's homeless outreach partners. Mercy House will also provide 24/7 onsite security, complemented by increased patrols by the Huntington Beach Police Department. Lastly, access to the Navigation Center will only be allowed off of Beach Boulevard, which will limit impacts to the neighborhood along Cameron Lane.

The Navigation Center was a joint partnership project between the County of Orange and the City of Huntington Beach. During the past three months, the two agencies engaged in a coordinated effort to design and build the facility. The primary structure on the site is a Sprung Structure tent, which has been used successfully as shelter buildings in various other locations. The full-service facility also features restroom / shower facilities, a kitchen / dining hall, laundry facilities, and administrative offices. The City and County are proud of this joint effort to launch a new Navigation Center in Huntington Beach to serve the needs of our homeless population. Moving ahead, updates will be posted on the City's new website, www.hbhomelessolutions.com.



HB's Homeless Task Force cuts the red ribbon to celebrate the new Navigation Center!

CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA

City Hall Directory

Helpline	(714) 536-5511
City Attorney	(714) 536-5555
City Clerk	(714) 536-5227
Passports	(714) 374-1600
City Council	(714) 536-5553
City Manager	(714) 536-5202
Community Services	(714) 536-5486
Beach Operations	(714) 536-5281
Business Development	(714) 536-5582
Finance Department	(714) 536-5630
Business Licenses	(714) 536-5267
Fire Department	(714) 536-5411
Human Resources	(714) 536-5492
Information Services	(714) 536-5515
Library Services	(714) 842-4481
Community Development	(714) 536-5271
Code Enforcement	(714) 375-5155
Police Department	(714) 960-8811
Public Works	(714) 536-5431
Graffiti Removal	(714) 960-8861



Oliver Chi

City Manager

www.huntingtonbeachca.gov

